

Application No. 10/601,828
Amendment dated May 21, 2008
After Final Office Action of February 21, 2008

Docket No.: 216683-114025

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Office for acceptance of the new power of attorney. Independent claims 1, 40, and 47 are currently amended. Claims 2-16, 20-32, and 50 were previously cancelled. Claims 33-35, 37-39, 41, 42, and 51-53 were previously withdrawn. Claims 1, 17-19, 33-49, and 51-53 remain in this application.

35 USC § 102 and 35 USC § 103

Claims 1, 18, 19, 30, 45-47, and 49 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. 3,863,550 to Sarka et al. ("Sarka"), or in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Sarka in view of U.S. 6,543,131 to Beroz et al. (Beroz).

Claim 1 has been amended to include:

at least one blade attached to and extending outwardly from said front surface of said at least one metal base portion and exposing at least one cutting edge along an edge of said at least one blade, said at least one metal blade forming an enclosed shape (Emphasis added).

Sarka shows a blade 15 riding within a slot 12 of plate 2 (see Sarka; FIGS. 7 and 11; Col. 3, Lines 28-37 and Lines 56-65). Sarka does not show a blade having an "enclosed shape" (emphasis added). Indeed, Sarka teaches directly away from an enclosed shape because each and every embodiment shown describes open shapes (Sarka; FIGS. 1 and 9). Applicants note that Beroz does not cure the deficiencies of Sarka. Moreover, Applicants believe that Beroz is not applicable, or analogous art, for the purposes of 35 U.S.C. § 103. Beroz related to a different technology area and is not relevant to the claims, or the embodiments as described in the present application.

Independent claims 40 and 47 are also amended and include features patentable over the cited prior art. For at least the reasons described above, Applicants believe that the claims are allowable over the cited prior art and are in condition for allowance.

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Applicants believe no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 50-3145, under Order No. 216683-114025 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

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Respectfully submitted,

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